

confirms the identity of female specimens but the situation and small spine on the hind margin of the elytra is not always as distinct as shown by Harrison (1992a). Furthermore there appears to be some confusion over this character as Lohse & Lucht (1994) attribute it to *T. praeusta*. Surely their figures 1F and 2F must have been transposed, although in my specimens the dark area at the tip of the elytra does appear to be more extensive in *T. starkii* as they indicate. Despite this confusion dissection of the male genitalia allows easy separation of these two species. In *T. praeusta* the aedeagus tapers to a sharp point at an acute angle of approximately 60°. In my only male specimen of *T. starkii* the aedeagus is much broader, coming to a blunter point with the sides at an angle of approximately 80°, but Lohse & Lucht (1994) show this as an obtuse angle. In *T. praeusta* the tip turns down slightly at the apex whilst in *T. starkii*, on the ventral surface of the tip, there is a small oval depression in the mid-line with a raised ridge on either side. The parameres also differ markedly. In *T. praeusta* they are approximately four times longer than their width, whereas those of *T. starkii* are only twice as long as wide.

Although all four specimens of *T. starkii* so far identified have been collected since 1990 it seems very unlikely that this is a recent immigrant to Britain. Coleopterists are urged to examine their own, and museum, collections paying particular attention to any *Tetrops* with all legs yellow. In *T. praeusta* only the forelegs are yellow, the mid and hind legs having femora and tibiae variously darkened.

#### References

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#### ***Blastobasis decolorella* Woll. (Lep.: Blastobasidae) in north-east Hampshire and north-west Surrey**

Alasdair Aston's note on *Blastobasis decolorella* in north-east Hampshire (*antea*: 254) prompts me to record my own observations of this species. In my garden (OS grid ref. SU 8259) I took specimens on 4 June 1993 and 28 June 1994. Nearby on Yateley Common (SU 8159) six specimens were noted on 18 June 1997. Elsewhere in north-east Hampshire I took a specimen at Rye Common (SU 7650) on 26 July 1996. Across the border in Surrey I took a specimen on the late date of 4 November 1993 at Brentmoor Heath nature reserve (identification confirmed by John Langmaid). I am also aware of a specimen being taken by Mrs J. Hatto and identified by Tony Dobson at Heath End near Farnham (SU 8549) on 31 July 1995. Goater (1992. *The butterflies and moths of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight: additions and corrections*) lists no records for North Hampshire but it would appear to have colonised the area in recent years and to now be fairly widespread and not uncommon.—TONY DAVIS, The Rangers House, Cricket Hill Lane, Yateley, Hampshire GU46 6BB.